



OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

RICK PERRY
GOVERNOR

May 18, 2011

The Honorable Robert Bentley
State of Alabama
State Capitol
600 Dexter Avenue
Montgomery, Alabama 36130-3024

Dear Governor Bentley:

As governors blessed to serve our respective states, we are all too aware of the struggles our citizens face that are often beyond the power of government to solve. Try as we might, we cannot right every wrong, prevent bad things from happening to good people or sign laws that cause people to treat one another with love, decency and respect. The limits of our own power cause many of us to turn to Him who has all power, and to seek spiritual solutions to the many challenges we face in our communities, states and nation.

Given the trials that beset our nation and world, from the global economic downturn to natural disasters, the lingering danger of terrorism and continued debasement of our culture, I believe it is time to convene the leaders from each of our United States in a day of prayer and fasting, like that described in the book of Joel.

I invite you to join me on August 6 at Reliant Stadium in Houston for a solemn day of prayer and fasting on behalf of our troubled nation. I also request that you join me in issuing a proclamation on May 23, calling upon your constituents to join us in prayer for our nation on August 6. This gathering will be apolitical in nature and open to any member of the public who wants to join with us in prayer. We simply want to humbly ask our Creator to intervene on behalf of our people and our nation, and ask for His blessing and healing power to transform our lives.

As James 5:16 says, "The fervent prayer of a righteous man avails much." Our nation was blessed to have founders who were both righteous and prayerful. I am not one who believes that our culture and society cannot be redeemed and renewed. But I believe it will take a great amount of prayer, and a renewed commitment to spiritual principles, to get our nation back on track. Let us not delay in doing what is right for our people and their future.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Rick Perry". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Rick Perry
Governor

RP:trk